SAC (170-1145-Sub) 6/30/70

SA HOWELL S. LOWE

[redacted]

On 6/19/70 captioned informant was interviewed at his residence, [redacted] Memphis, Tenn., at which time he advised that the racial situation in Memphis is calm with little tension and no indication that any racial violence will erupt in the immediate future. He stated that the NAACP has made extensive efforts through its ad-hoc committee against police brutality to stir up the Negro community against the Police Department on the subject of police brutality toward Negroes. [redacted] stated that in South Memphis, while the Negro community has little use for the white police department, it depends on this police department to maintain some type of law and order on the streets in South Memphis, and the majority of the Negro citizens are well aware that without the Memphis Police Department there would be complete anarchy in the Negro ghetto areas of Memphis, Tenn.

He stated that most of the agitation directed against the Memphis Police Department comes from the Negro leaders and politicians who are striving to secure political and economic control of Memphis, Tenn., and the young Negroes who are primarily criminally inclined and despise the authority as represented by the Memphis Police Department. He stated that in talking with various leaders of the NAACP in connection with this ad-hoc committee, they are all disappointed over the fact that they have been unable to incite any unrest in the average Negro at Memphis, Tenn., on these lines.

[redacted] stated that the Invaders are active; however, they are making every effort to establish a new image. They are producing and have published at least one copy of a newspaper known as "We the People," and in conversation with several of the Invaders, including the prime minister, LANCE WATSON, WATSON stated that the name of the Invaders must be changed to either the People's Party or a Black

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United Front. [redacted] stated that the Invader organization now has at least 2 branches, the regular Invader organization and their action committee which is led by MELVIN SMITH and MAURICE LEWIS. This is to be the militant group of the Invader organization and is to be used by the Invaders where it is necessary to have a show of force to take part in any demonstration, picketing, or boycott. [redacted] stated that in conversation with MELVIN SMITH, SMITH has advised that this central committee of the Invader organization, or the People's Party, is presently buying uniforms which will consist of black pants, green shirts, and a black beret.

Informant advised that many of the young militant Negroes at Memphis, Tenn., are convinced that they can secure funds from MAP-South or the WOPC to finance any type of small business operation. They are not interested in working and are aware that they must refrain from open criminal activities due to the constant pressure of the Memphis Police Department.

[redacted] stated that he is concerned about the apparent increase in the carrying of guns on the part of young Negroes throughout the South Memphis area. He stated that there is no information indicating that there is any organization or individual stockpiling guns and/or ammunition but that the majority of the militant young Negroes are now going armed with one type of weapon or another.

[redacted] stated that the Negro community is basically extremely tired of picketing, boycotts, and demonstrations at Memphis, Tenn. Most of them are interested in working, and based on this fact, in his opinion, it will be extremely hard in the absence of any racial incident, to arouse the Negro community to a point where there will be wide spread racial violence.

[redacted] advised he would, as usual, maintain contact with the Invader organization along with the NAACP and would attempt to keep this Bureau advised of any indication of racial violence or the distribution of Black Power literature.